

HB 1041 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Dugger

This bill changes the laws regarding elections. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Removes a primary election held by the state and one or more political subdivisions or special districts from the requirement that the costs be paid proportionally by the state and all political subdivisions and special districts (Section 115.065, RSMo);
- (2) Changes the primary election day from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August of even-numbered years to the first Tuesday after the third Monday in June of those years (Section 115.121);
- (3) Changes the general municipal election day in non-primary years from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August to the first Tuesday after the third Monday in June (Section 115.123);
- (4) Changes the primary election day for general election candidates from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August of even-numbered years to the first Tuesday after the third Monday in June of those years (Section 115.341);
- (5) Changes the deadline for a person to file a declaration of candidacy in order to have his or her name printed on the ballot in a primary election from by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in March before the election to 5:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday in February before the election and changes the time when a declaration of candidacy for nomination in a primary election must be accepted from not prior to 8:00 a.m. on the last Tuesday in February before the election to not prior to 8:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday in January before the election (Section 115.349);
- (6) Requires St. Louis City to have a city legislative district committee in lieu of a county legislative district committee. The bill prohibits the votes for write-in candidates from being counted in the election of members to a county or city legislative district committee. Criteria for the membership of congressional, senatorial, and judicial district committees that overlap more than one county or city committee district are specified in the bill. If these districts overlap exactly with a county or city committee, membership on both committees must be identical. All types of committees must elect a man and a woman as chair and vice-chair and must also elect a man and a woman, who may or may not be members of the committee, as secretary and treasurer. A person cannot serve

as a chair or vice chair for more than one legislative district committee. The meeting dates for forming a committee are specified. The members of a county committee must meet at the county courthouse which must be available free of charge and the members of a city committee must meet at city hall which must be made available at no charge on the first Saturday after each primary election to choose members. The members of each Congressional district committee must meet on the fourth Saturday after each primary election instead of the last Tuesday in August after each primary election. The members of each legislative district committee must meet on the second Saturday after each primary election instead of the third Wednesday after each primary election. The members of each judicial district committee must meet on the fifth Saturday after each primary election instead of on the first Tuesday in September after each primary election (Sections 115.603 - 115.621); and

(7) Allows an established political party to require a filing fee of up to \$10,000 of a candidate for appearing on its presidential primary ballot. Currently, a candidate must pay a \$1,000 filing fee (Section 115.761).